

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3078
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

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E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CA
SUBJECT: CNTU VIEWS ON PQ GOVERNMENT

1. DURING RECENT CONVERSATION WITH LABATT, NORBERT RODRIGUE, PRESIDENT OF 190,000 QUEBEC-BASED CONFEDERATION OF NATIONAL TRADE UNIONS (CNTU), EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE SHARP DIVISIONS WITHIN HIS ORGANIZATION AS TO WHAT POSTURE TO ADOPT TOWARD LEVESQUE GOVERNMENT. WHILE CNTU SHARED QUEBEC FEDERATION OF LABOR'S STRONG DISLIKE FOR FORMER LIBERAL GOVERNMENT, IT DID NOT FOLLOW QFL'S LEAD IN SUPPORTING P.Q. DURING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. A SIGNIFICANT AND VOCAL FACTION WITHIN CNTU HAS VAGUE IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENT TO CREATION OF A PROVINCIAL LABOR PARTY. THIS GROUP REJECTS NDP AS PURELY ANGLOPHONE AND TOO INTELLECTUAL WHILE FINDING FAULT WITH P.Q. AS BEING TOO BOURGEOIS DESPITE ITS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ORIENTATION. SHORT-TERM POLITICAL PROBLEM FACING RODRIGUE AND OTHER MODERATE CNTU LEADERS IS AVOIDANCE OF ISOLATION WHICH WOULD BE REAL POSSIBILITY IF CNTU WERE TO BE ONLY LABOR ORGANIZATION TO DECLINE PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT-BUSINESS-LABOR SUMMIT NOW

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SCHEDULED FOR MAY 23. RODRIGUE WILL MOUNT A MAJOR EFFORT TO FOCUS ATTENTION OF NEXT CNTU CONVENTION (WHICH WILL CONCLUDE ONLY THE DAY PRECEDING THE SUMMIT MEETING) ON URGENCY TO GET CONVENTION BACKING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE TRI-PARTITE CONSULTATIONS. HE IS CONFIDENT THAT MAJORITY OF SOME 2,000 DELEGATES WILL AUTHORIZE SUCH PARTICIPATION AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT

IMPLY ENDORSEMENT OF LEVESQUE GOVERNMENT.

2. ON QUEBEC SEPARATION, RODRIGUE EXPECTS SERIOUS
DISCUSSION TO BE INITIATED AT UPCOMING CONVENTION BUT NO
FORMAL POSITION WILL BE ADOPTED UNTIL SUBSEQUENT
CONVENTION. LEADERSHIP WHICH WAS ELECTED LAST YEAR
WHEN RODRIGUE REPLACED PEPIN AS PRESIDENT WILL NOT
HAVE TO STAND REELECTION UNTIL 1978. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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